

USACHPPM
HEALTH INFORMATION OPERATIONS (HIO)
WEEKLY UPDATE

18 April 2002

The HIO Weekly Update provides information regarding global medical and veterinary issues of interest to the United States (US) Army. The weekly update does not attempt to analyze the information regarding potential strategic or tactical impact to the US Army and as such, should not be regarded as a medical intelligence product. Medical intelligence products are available at <http://mic.afmic.detrick.army.mil/>. The information in the HIO Weekly Update should provide an increased awareness of current and emerging health-related issues.

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HOT ISSUES

Anthrax Awareness Campaign - Pharmaceutical Companies

On 11 April, CBS News reported that Bayer Corp., GlaxoSmithKline, Eli Lilly & Co., and Pharmacia Corp., are providing a brochure that describes anthrax to physicians and other healthcare workers in an attempt to improve identification and early treatment of the disease. The pilot program will distribute 20,000 copies in 13 major cities. Other sources of electronic information for healthcare workers include the [AVIP](#), [CDC](#), and [Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality](#). The report is at <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2002/04/11/health/main505927.shtml>.

Bioterrorism Drill Sooner Spring - Oklahoma

On 11 April, the Oklahoma State Department of Health reported that the Sooner Spring Bioterrorism Drill, which consisted of a series of exercises and mock drills, was conducted 12-13 April in three Oklahoma communities. In McAlester 13,362 imitation antibiotic packages from the National Pharmaceutical Stockpile (NPS) were distributed as part of an exercise to provide medications to a community exposed to pneumonic plague. In Lawton, tabletop exercises were conducted for a mock outbreak of botulism in a bottled water supply, which allowed teams to mobilize an outbreak investigation and work with epidemiologists on call at the State level to identify the agent, source of contamination, and people at risk. This scenario allowed for discussion of proposals on alternate transportation of NPS medications due to the grounding of the plane because of weather. In Tulsa, local hospitals participated in an exercise that involved a case investigation of a suspected smallpox outbreak. Teams practiced contact interviews, case tracing, and hospital surveillance, which identified the source and 232 mock exposures. The exercise included mock vaccination of medical providers, law enforcement, and other involved in containing the outbreak. The reports are at <http://www.health.state.ok.us/program/cdd/anthrax/ss/index.html>.

Cervical Cancer Screen - US Army

On 3 April, the US Army Medical Command announced that the Army is adding human papilloma virus (HPV) DNA testing (Hybrid Capture 2) to help clarify inconclusive results for cervical cancer screening using liquid-based cytology (ThinPrep). The two tests can be done in one simple procedure. According to the [WHO](#) and [NIH](#), HPV is the cause of essentially all cervical cancer. A patient with a positive test will need to be managed more closely, while patients with negative results can return to a normal screening schedule. In the past, some two million Pap smears a year have produced unclear results, which leads to additional testing or invasive procedures. The new procedures mean fewer repeat patient appointments and lower overall costs. Army medical facilities should have 100 percent conversion by the end of May 2002. The report is at <http://www.armymedicine.army.mil/armymed/news/releases/newpap.htm>.

Childhood Vaccines - Potential Global Shortage

On 12 April, allAfrica.com posted a report in which the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), key supplier of vaccines to developing countries, warned of childhood vaccine shortages worldwide. An UNICEF spokesperson reported that 10 of 14 vaccine manufacturers had partially or completely stopped production of the following childhood vaccines creating shortages: polio, measles, tetanus, and the combined diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis (DTP). UNICEF proposed longer-term (two years or more) commitments by donor countries to guarantee production lines for manufacturers. The report is at <http://allafrica.com/stories/200204120012.html>.

Early Puberty - Hair Products

On 3 April, NewScientist.com reported some hair products contain small amounts of hormones, especially estrogen, that could cause premature sexual development in girls. Although the evidence for this remains controversial, [FDA](#) requires specific approval for over-the-counter products containing hormones. According to the report there seems to be a gray area for products marketed prior to 1994, and at least five companies are marketing hormone-containing hair products. The report indicated that there may be an increasing consumer interest in cosmetic products that contain hormonally active compounds. The report is at <http://www.newscientist.com/news/news.jsp?id=ns99992119>.

Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) Diagnostic Tests - Global Research Programme

On 28 March, the [IAEA](#) announced that the Global Research Programme [sic], initiated in 1998 by the Joint Division of the IAEA and [UN](#), has developed three immunoassays that will effectively differentiate between animals infected with FMD and animals vaccinated with the FMD vaccine. Full international validation of the tests is still required, which will occur over the coming months. Once this validation occurs, then the tests can move into the marketplace allowing countries to control the next FMD outbreak through vaccination rather than mass slaughter. The report is at http://www.iaea.org/worldatom/Press/News/save_animals.shtml.

Influenza Vaccine - Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)

On 12 April, the [CDC](#) published the recommendations of the ACIP on the prevention and control of influenza. The primary changes and updates are: (1) due to vaccine distribution delays for the past two years, vaccination efforts in October should focus on persons at greatest risk for influenza-related complications and healthcare workers, and efforts in November should target all other groups; October and November continue to be the optimal time for vaccination, (2) vaccination efforts for all groups should continue into December and later, for as long as the vaccine is available, (3) influenza vaccination of healthy children aged 6-23 months is encouraged when feasible; vaccination of children aged 6 months and older who have certain medical conditions that put them at high risk for complications of influenza continue to be strongly recommended, (4) a limited amount of influenza vaccine with reduced thimerosal content will be available for the 2002-03 influenza season, and (5) the 2002-03 trivalent vaccine virus strains are A/Moscow/10/99 (H3N2)-like, A/New Caledonia/20/00 (H1N1)-like, and B/Hong Kong/330/2001-like strains. The report is at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5103a1.htm>.

Mail Screening Procedures - USPS and Pentagon

On 9 April, the Early Bird posted a report by InsideDefense.com, which stated that all incoming [USPS](#) mail at the Pentagon is examined using a specially designed "negative airflow" containment area to detect the presence of "active biohazards." The negative airflow draws any particles present in the mail through filters that are subsequently examined by a laboratory prior to releasing the mail from a containment area. The report also indicated that the USPS was continuing to investigate options other than irradiation to decontaminate mail. Irradiation produces a high degree of heat that causes irreparable damage to plastics, electronics, and other items, and letters may become discolored or stuck together. The irradiation process is also time and labor intensive resulting in delays of up to two weeks for mail delivery. Some USPS workers had earlier reported minor skin rashes and respiratory problems, for which the USPS had taken steps to address. The report is at <http://ebird.dtic.mil/Apr2002/e20020410new.htm> (requires registration).

Meningococcal Disease - African Meningitis Belt

On 10 April, the [WHO](#) released a summary report of meningococcal disease in the African Meningitis Belt, which is an area in the sub-Saharan known for having the highest burden of this disease in Africa. The area is between Senegal and Ethiopia and includes 15 countries, with an estimated total population of 300 million. Epidemics generally occur seasonally between the end of November and the end of June and decline rapidly with the arrival of the rainy season.

Country	Cases	Deaths	CFR	Country	Cases	Deaths	CFR
Benin	490	50	10.2%	Mali ¹	336	29	8.6%
Burkina Faso ¹	6,145	813	13%	Mauritania ¹	26	2	8%
Chad	No info	No info	No info	Niger ¹	2,508	210	8.4%
Cote d'Ivoire ¹	189	32	17%	Somalia ⁴	237	15	6.3%
Ethiopia ²	540	166	4.7%	Sudan ⁵	330	49	14.8%
Gambia ¹	50	3	6%	Senegal ⁶	71	6	8.5%
Ghana	1,407	190	14%	Tanzania ⁷	84	6	7.8%
Guinea ³	22	6	27%	Togo	559	91	16%

Meningococcal Disease in the African Meningitis Belt (1 January-3 April 2002 unless otherwise specified)

¹thru 31 March 2002 ²since outbreak begin in September 2001 ³from 14 January-3 February 2002 ⁴since outbreak begin in October 2001-1 March ⁵thru 11 February ⁶7 January-10 March 2002 ⁷Nov 01-Feb02 ⁸thru 24 March

Potassium Iodide Distribution - Vermont

On 4 April, the Vermont Department of Health announced that distribution of potassium iodide to people who work or reside in six southeastern Vermont towns would begin on 15 April. As part of Vermont's terrorism preparedness effort, officials are making available one dose of potassium iodide to each person who works or resides in the six towns within the emergency-planning zone for the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station for which the qualifying towns are Brattleboro, Dummerston, Guilford, Halifax, Marlboro, or Vernon. After completing an application, participants receive the potassium iodide in person or through the mail. A public health nurse is available for consult. The report is at <http://www.healthvermonters.info/admin/releases/040402ki.shtml>.

Rabies Compendium - National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians

On 10 April, the Illinois Department of Public Health posted the *Compendium of Animal Rabies Prevention and Control, 2002*. Changes include: (1) the length of time from receipt of primary vaccination to peak antibody titer (animal considered to be immunized) was changed from 30 days to 28 days, (2) removal of the statement regarding the vaccination of livestock against rabies as being neither economically feasible nor justified from a public health standpoint, and (3) addition of two statements on rabies testing, which states that euthanasia should be accomplished in such a way as to maintain the integrity of the brain so that the lab can recognize anatomical parts and allowance for submitting whole body specimens rather than the head or brain in the case of very small animals such as bats. The report is at <http://www.idph.state.il.us/pdf/RabComp2002.pdf>.

Smallpox Vaccine Agreement

On 12 April, the [AFPS](#) announced that the [DoD](#) and Canada's Department of National Defence [sic] had signed an agreement on 27 March to jointly collaborate on a smallpox vaccine development program. The program's goal is to develop and acquire a new

smallpox vaccine based on a live viral *Vaccinia* to protect service members against the disease. The agreement is the first collaborative acquisition chemical-biological-radiological defense agreement between the two countries under an [MOU](#) signed by the US, Canada, and the [UK](#) in June 2000. The MOU was designed to further the goal of cooperation in research, development, and acquisition of protective material against [WMD](#) leading to products common to allied forces. The report is at http://www.defenselink.mil/news/Apr2002/b04122002_bt181-02.html.

Technology for Combating Terrorism and [WMD](#) - [DoD](#)

On 10 April, the Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Nuclear, Chemical, and Biological Defense Programs testified before the Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities, Committee on Armed Services, United States Senate. According to the testimony, programs for chemical and biological defense are categorized broadly under three operational principles: [contamination avoidance](#), [protection](#), and [restoration](#). DoD has two key technology initiatives for combating chemical and biological terrorism: the Biological Counterterrorism Research Program and the Biological Defense Homeland Security Support Program. The latter program includes fielding and modernization of (1) WMD-Civil Support Teams and (2) Reserve Component Reconnaissance and Decontamination Teams. The Joint Service Installation Protection Project, a pilot project, also falls under this program and it will equip nine diverse DoD installations with: (1) contamination avoidance, protection, and decontamination equipment packages, (2) emergency response capability for consequence management, (3) integrated command and control network, and (4) a comprehensive training and exercise plan. Among the capabilities these programs will provide include enhanced biological detection capabilities and the fusion of medical surveillance systems, wide-area environmental sensors, access control points and information systems. The report is at http://www.senate.gov/~armed_services/e_witnesslist.cfm?id=219.

Technology for Combating Terrorism and WMD - US Army

On 10 April, the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Research and Technology testified before the Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities, Committee on Armed Services, United States Senate. According to the testimony, future priorities for the US Army's Science and Technology program will include the following: (1) individual health monitoring, (2) medical and dental preventive treatments, including vaccines and drugs against malaria, hemorrhagic fever, and scrub typhus, (3) technologies that reduce the medical footprint, and (4) innovative products that will include far-forward stabilization and resuscitation, hemorrhage control, minimization of neural injury, a decrease in the mortality rate, and speeding soldier's return to duty. An emphasis will be placed on modeling and simulation technology through partnering with the University of California to accelerate the development of compelling immersive environments for training, mission rehearsal, and concept development. In 2002, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology was selected as the Army-sponsored University-Affiliated Research Center for the Institute for Soldier Nanotechnologies (ISN). The ISN will

provide the Army with a corps of expertise in the development and application of nanotechnology for the soldier; including the creation of uniforms and materials that could help heal soldiers, protect against bullets, chemical agents or monitor a soldier's life support processes. The report is at http://www.senate.gov/~armed_services/e_witnesslist.cfm?id=219.

USCENTCOM

Earthquake - Afghanistan

On 12 April, the National Earthquake Center (NEC) reported an earthquake measuring 5.9 on the Richter scale in the Doabi-Nahrin area of Afghanistan. NEC reported at least 50 people were killed, 200 injured, and many buildings were severely damaged. The earthquake was relatively "flat" (10 km), which allowed it to be felt as far away as Peshawar, Pakistan and Dushanbe, Tajikistan. Landslides blocked the road to Nahrin and likely further damaged infrastructure from last month's earthquake. The report is at <http://neic.usgs.gov/neis/qed/cwaf.html>.

USEUCOM

Bacterial Meningitis - Europe

On 11 April, the Eurosurveillance Weekly reported a summary of the recent publication *Surveillance of Bacterial Meningitis in Europe* for the epidemiological year 1999/2000 (July-June). A total of 8,279 cases were reported from 29 European contributors for this period. Overall, meningococcal disease followed the usual European seasonal pattern, with most cases occurring in the winter months (36%) and fewest in the summer (17%). The age distribution demonstrated that the main peak was in infants. A secondary peak in teenagers was also present. From 1998/99 to 1999/2000 the incidence increased in most age groups. This increase ranged from 8% for 10-14 year olds to about 50% for 25-44 year olds. However, increased incidences of 21% for those aged 1-11 months and of 20% in 1-4 year-olds are more important because of the large numbers in these age groups. As in previous years, case fatality rates increased with age. Serogroup B and C diseases together accounted for 95% of cases in Europe with serogroup B predominant (63% of grouped strains). Other serogroups included serogroup Y (1.3%), serogroup A (0.3%), and serogroup W135 (0.1%). The highest proportion of serogroup B cases occurred in children aged 1-4 years (28%), with a small peak in young people aged 15-19 years. The report also summarized data on resistance to penicillin, rifampicin, and sulfonamide. A copy of the complete report may be requested from [mailto:nnoah@phls.org.uk?subject=Surveillance of Bacterial Meningitis in Europe](mailto:nnoah@phls.org.uk?subject=Surveillance%20of%20Bacterial%20Meningitis%20in%20Europe) and the summary is at http://www.eurosurv.org/2002/pfp/020411_pfp.htm.

HIV Prophylaxis - Nigerian Soldiers

On 13 April, the [BMJ](#) reported that Nigeria would soon be offering free antiretroviral drugs to HIV positive soldiers. A general belief that many of the soldiers acquired the

disease during peacekeeping missions in countries such as Liberia and Sierra Leone is based on the Nigerian military requirement for two to three years' duty during peacekeeping operations versus the normal six-month tour of duty. A 2001 sentinel survey of HIV and syphilis prevalence in Nigeria found just over three million Nigerians had HIV. The military is considered to be a high-risk group, but lack of compulsory testing has resulted in unknown rates among the 100,000 military personnel. The report is at <http://bmj.com/cgi/content/full/324/7342/870/e>.

Influenza Surveillance – Europe

For week 14, 1-7 April, the [EISS](#) reported low or declining levels of influenza activity in all reporting countries. Influenza activity was above the normal baseline in the north and west of Norway and the east and northeast of Germany. Norway reported that there have now been four cases of influenza B/Victoria/2/87-like virus detected in patients sampled in February and March. These cases are of the Hong Kong/330/2001 lineage, which is a component of the 2002-03 influenza vaccine. The report is at http://www.eiss.org/cqi-files/bulletin_v2.cqi?display=1&code=63&bulletin=63.

Medical and Food Insecurity - Madagascar

The US [DOS](#) reported shortages of medical and food supplies in all parts of Madagascar due to a deteriorating security situation. The destruction of four bridges leading to the capital, numerous roadblocks, depleted fuel supplies, and adjusted airline schedules have resulted in interruption of commercial transportation and resupply. The report is at http://travel.state.gov/madagascar_warning.html.

Meningococcal Meningitis - Burkina Faso

On 12 April, the [WHO](#) reported that as of 11 April a total of 8,446 cases including 1,059 deaths have occurred in Burkina Faso since 1 January 2002. This is an increase of 2,301 cases and 246 deaths since the last report of 3 April. The epidemic is now affecting a population of about 7.5 million. The report is at <http://www.who.int/disease-outbreak-news/n2002/april/12april2002.html>.

***Pseudomonas*-contaminated Swabs - Norway**

On 11 April, the *Eurosurveillance Weekly* reported that since autumn 2001, 78 patients in nine hospitals across Norway have had genetically indistinguishable strains of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* cultured. On 9 April, St Olav's Hospital in Trondheim found bacteria with an indistinguishable pattern on pulsed field gel electrophoresis in a product called Dento-o-sept, which is manufactured by Snøgg Industri AS in Norway. This product is a pre-moistened foam swab that is saturated with glycerine and water and used for mouth hygiene in patients who are unable to drink or brush their teeth, for example, unconscious patients. The product is not a sterile medical device. It is widely used in Norwegian hospitals and nursing homes, and in home-based care. The

manufacturer has withdrawn the product from the market and informed the distribution net. The report is at http://www.eurosurv.org/2002/pfp/020411_pfp.htm.

Rift Valley Fever - Chad

On 12 April, ProMED reported that frozen blood samples were recently tested, and Rift Valley fever was isolated from two French soldiers serving near N'Djamena, Chad in August 2001. A dengue-like illness without complications was reported in both cases. This is reportedly the first report of Rift Valley fever isolation in humans in Chad although serologic evidence of the infection had been previously described in animals (ovine and bovine). Rift Valley fever is mostly reported in sub-Saharan countries in Africa. The report is at http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1001:183627::NO::F2400_P1001_BACK_PAGE,F2400_P1001_PUB_MAIL_ID:1010,17942.

Spinal Cord in Beef - Spain

On 10 April, the [UK](#) Food Standards Agency reported that spinal cord had been found in two quarters out of 330 quarters of beef imported from Spain on 3 April. Spinal cord is among those parts of the animal most likely to contain [BSE](#) infectivity and is therefore classified as specified risk material (SRM). The report is at <http://www.food.gov.uk/news/pressreleases/srminspanishbeef>.

[TB](#) - Spain

On 11 April, the *Eurosurveillance Weekly* reported that Spain has the second highest TB incidence rate in Western Europe after Portugal, although total numbers have been declining. In 2000 the incidence rate of reported TB was 19.6-cases/100,000 population and in 2001 the estimated rate was 16.9-cases/100,000 population. The mortality rate from respiratory TB has remained very low at .99/100,000 population with the over-65 group registering the highest rates (7.1 for men and 2.3 for women). The report is at http://www.eurosurv.org/2002/pfp/020411_pfp.htm.

USJFCOM

Botulinum Toxin Type A - [FDA](#) Approval

On 15 April, the FDA announced approval of Botulinum toxin Type A (Botox Cosmetic) to temporarily improve the appearance of moderate to severe frown lines between the eyebrows (glabellar lines), a non-serious medical condition. Botulinum toxin Type A is a protein produced by the *Clostridium botulinum*. When used in medical settings as an injectable form of sterile, purified botulinum toxin, small doses of the toxin are injected into the affected muscles and block the release of the chemical acetylcholine that would otherwise signal the muscle to contract. The toxin paralyzes or weakens the injected muscle. The report is at <http://www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/answers/2002/ans01147.html>.

Complementary and Alternative Medicine - US

On 13 April, the *New York (NY) Times* reported that according to the American Hospital Association the number of hospitals offering alternative therapies nearly doubled from 1998 to 2000. About 15.5 percent of hospitals are offering services that range from relaxation therapies, acupuncture, and biofeedback to polarity therapy, yoga, and acupressure. Community hospitals, as well as academic medical centers such as Beth Israel Medical Center and Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York, are reportedly offering various alternative therapies in addition to traditional medicine. This trend is likely to continue in the future given the final report of the White House Commission on Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM) Policy, which recommended a CAM office within the DHHS and increased research in this area. The Commission's report is at <http://www.whccamp.hhs.gov/es.html> and the *NY Times* report is at <http://www.nytimes.com/2002/04/13/business/13HOSP.html>

***Enterobacter sakazakii* Infection and Powdered Milk - Tennessee**

On 12 April, the [CDC](#) reported the first recall of a batch of commercial product, a powdered infant formula, in association with a fatal infection attributed to *E. sakazakii*. *E. sakazakii* is a rare cause of invasive disease in neonates; however, when meningitis occurs, severe neurologic complications, including cerebral abscess formation, are common, and deaths occurs in 33-80% of cases. The patient was fed the formula by continuous administration (with a "hang" time of up to eight hours) in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) of a hospital in Tennessee. The hospital has since changed its policy so that the principal formula type for NICU patients is a commercially sterile, ready-to-feed liquid formula. The "hang" time or the amount of time the contents of a formula bag are fed to a patient has also been reduced from eight hours to four hours. The report is at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5114a1.htm>. A letter from [FDA](#) to health professionals provides recommendations for minimizing the risk in those circumstances when a powdered formula must be used for premature or immune compromised infants. The FDA letter is at <http://www.cfsan.fda.gov/~dms/inf-ltr3.html>.

Influenza Surveillance – [DoD](#)

The [DoD](#) Worldwide Influenza Surveillance Program is a laboratory-based influenza surveillance program managed by the Air Force. As of 11 April, 541 (19%) of 2,800 submitted specimens have been identified as positive for influenza since the start of the influenza season (29 September). Of the 541 isolates, 499 (92%) were influenza A viruses and 42 (8%) were influenza B viruses. Ten of the 16 isolates identified during the past week were influenza B viruses. Of the ten influenza B isolates, six were from Little Creek Naval Air Base in Virginia. Further info, including data from the CDC and international sites, are available at: <https://pestilence.brooks.af.mil/Influenza/>. Note: Some users may experience difficulty accessing this link directly from this document; if this occurs, copy and paste the hyperlink in your browser address bar.

patients were not using any prophylaxis and 34 (67%) reported taking a recommended antimalarial drug. Three cases of cryptic malaria, all caused by *Plasmodium vivax*, were reported in civilians in 1999. A 32-year old female in Georgia was diagnosed with malaria and reported no risk factors. Her partner had returned from a trip to Mexico three weeks before the patient's symptoms emerged, but he was not available for interview. The other two cases occurred in two 11-year old males who attended a summer camp located 15 and 20 miles from their hometowns in Suffolk County, New York. The patients had slept in tents and participated in numerous outdoor activities. The report is at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/ss5101a2.htm>.

Meningococcal Meningitis - Delaware

On 8 April, the Delaware's Division of Public Health announced the fifth case of meningococcal meningitis in the state during 2002. The case, a 19-year old female student at Delaware State University (DSU) was the second college student to have died of the disease. The first college student was 22-year old male at DSU's Georgetown Campus who died from meningitis on 30 March. Thus far no connections have been made between the campuses. A state law enacted in January requires all four-year colleges and universities in Delaware provide information about the availability and benefits of a meningitis vaccination. The report is at <http://www.state.de.us/dhss/dph/meningitisDover4-02.pdf>.

Meningococcal Meningitis - Fort Leonard Wood

On 16 April, Fort Leonard Wood (FLW) and an Epidemiology Consultation (EPICON) Team from USACHPPM reported that three cases of meningococcal meningitis, serogroup C, had occurred at FLW and involved two trainees and one 12-year old family member. The first two cases became ill on 27 March and the third case on 5 April. There were no known direct contacts or connections among the three cases other than living on FLW. Both trainees had been immunized with the quadrivalent meningococcal vaccine, which includes protection against serogroup C. Both trainees recovered, but the family member succumbed to the infection. About 300 persons at FLW received antibiotic prophylaxis. The EPICON Team recommended procedures be implemented to ensure all trainees receive the vaccine at reception and the immunization be offered to all DoD beneficiaries aged 2-19 years who reside on post, are employed on post, or who attend or use on-post facilities (including schools and day care). Implementation of the extended vaccine program and surveillance for additional cases are ongoing. A report is at <http://www.health.state.mo.us/NewsReleases/FortLeonardWood.htm>.

Meningococcal Vaccine - Canada

On 12 April, Health Canada announced that Alberta was the first province to introduce a routine meningococcal conjugate vaccine program for infants. The new vaccine will be offered to all infants born on or after 1 September 2001 during routine immunization appointments. Three doses of vaccine are administered beginning at two months of

age. The vaccine is not effective in children under two months of age. The first conjugate vaccine was licensed in Canada for use in children on 24 April 2001. The vaccine provides protection against meningococcal serogroup C disease, which is the most prevalent strain in Alberta at this time. The report is at http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/pphb-dgsp/bid-bmi/dsd-dsm/nb-ab/2002/nb1502_e.html.

Mercury in Fish - Rhode Island

On 10 April, the Rhode Island (RI) Department of Health (DOH) issued a seasonal Health Advisory about eating locally caught fish that may be contaminated with mercury. The RI DOH advised pregnant women, nursing women, women planning a pregnancy, or small children under six years of age to avoid eating fish caught in RI fresh waters (except stocked trout). The [FDA](#) had issued an advisory earlier this year for pregnant women and women of childbearing age who may become pregnant to avoid eating swordfish, shark, bluefish, and striped bass. The RI DOH also advised everyone else to (1) avoid fish with the most mercury such as bass, pike, and pickerel, (2) fish for stocked trout, (3) vary where you fish and what kind of fish you eat, (4) choose smaller fish to eat in accordance with allowable size limit regulations, and (5) other state-specific recommendations. The FDA advisory is at <http://www.cfsan.fda.gov/~dms/admehg.html> and the RI advisory is at <http://www.health.state.ri.us/media/020410a.htm>.

Milk Contamination - New York

On 9 April, *CBS News* reported that officials are investigating 14 cases in which 44,000 gallons of milk on dairy farms in western New York were contaminated with antibiotics. None of the contaminated milk was marketed since milk is tested before being unloaded from trucks at processing plants. Suspects include animal rights groups. The report is at <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2002/04/09/health/main505677.shtml>.

Nicotine Lollipops and Lip Balm - [FDA](#) Warning

On 10 April, the FDA issued warning letters to three pharmacies that are selling nicotine lollipops and/or nicotine lip balm over the Internet. The FDA has found these products to be illegal because they are: (1) compounded and dispensed without a physician's prescription, (2) unapproved new drugs that need, but do not have, FDA approval, (3) made from a drug substance, nicotine salicylate, which is not permitted for use by pharmacists in compounding drugs, and (4) misbranded because their labeling does not have adequate directions for the uses for which they are being offered and does not have adequate warnings against use by children. Based on statements from the pharmacies' Internet sites, the products are promoted as aids for smoking cessation or to treat nicotine addiction. The report is at <http://www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/ANSWERS/2002/ANS01144.html>.

Nuclear Waste - Nevada

On 9 April, the National Academies reported the Nevada Governor had overruled President Bush's decision to bury thousands of tons of radioactive waste from US nuclear plants in a repository at Yucca Mountain by invoking a special provision in a 1982 nuclear waste law. This challenge refers the decision back to Congress, which has 90 legislative days to uphold or reject the governor's action. The nation's spent nuclear fuel (90% of the waste) and high-level defense waste is now stored temporarily near commercial nuclear reactors and at government sites in 43 states across the US. Yucca Mountain is about 100 miles northwest of Las Vegas. The report is at <http://nationalacademies.org/headlines>

Rabies Alert - Arkansas

On 10 April, the Arkansas Department of Health announced that six counties were currently under a rabies alert: Sebastian, Washington, Garland, Clark, Madison, and Searcy. A county is placed on an alert status when more than three rabid animals have been found in a county within a 12-month period. The report is at http://www.healtharkansas.com/news/pr_rabies_040102.html.

Radiation Dose Limits - [NRC](#)

On 2 April, the NRC announced publication of a final rule, which changes the method used for calculating the amount of radiation to the skin that workers could potentially receive when conducting certain licensed activities. The dose to the skin is now averaged over the most highly exposed 10 square centimeters instead of being averaged over one square centimeter. The change was based on scientific studies that demonstrated workers' mobility and dexterity were hampered by excessive use of [PPE](#), which required them to spend more time completing a job in radiation areas thus increasing whole body dose. This rule is expected to result in a decrease in the use of PPE used by nuclear power plant workers and others potentially exposed to skin contamination, which will in turn lead to a reduction in an external occupational dose to workers onsite. The report is at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/archive/02-039.html>.

Radioactive Devices Missing - US

On 11 April, ABC News reported that a new governmental office was created to track down 835 radioactive devices reported to the [NRC](#) as missing or stolen. According to the report the radioactive material in these devices could be combined with conventional explosions to create a "dirty" bomb, which could spread radiation and create panic. The NRC declined to provide a list of the missing radioactive devices and their potential health effects citing security concerns. Examples of such devices include soil density gauges, cancer radiation therapy machines, irradiation devices used to sterilize food, and gamma ray cameras used in pipeline construction. The report is at http://www.abcnews.go.com/sections/wnt/DailyNews/nuclear_material020410.html.

Salmonellosis - Texas

On 15 April, the Texas Department of Health reported 16 persons have been confirmed with salmonellosis and some 300 others have been reported to have symptoms consistent with the disease from all 50 states. The exposures appear to have occurred from 17 March through 12 April at the Wyndham Anatole Hotel in Dallas. Health officials have not determined the source of the outbreak although the investigation is ongoing. The report is at http://www.tdh.state.tx.us/news/b_new408.htm.

Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy (TSE) - US

On 11 April, the [USDA](#) reported that two of the 125 sheep confiscated last year from a farm in Vermont had tested positive for an atypical undifferentiated TSE of foreign origin. The flock was confiscated in March 2001 after four animals from an associated flock tested positive for TSE in July 2000. None of the confiscated animals entered the animal or human food supply chain. The sheep were imported from Belgium and the Netherlands in 1996 and placed under strict control as part of USDA's scrapie control effort. In 1998, the USDA learned that it was likely the sheep from Europe were exposed to feed contaminated with [BSE](#). The report is at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/lpa/press/2002/04/sheeptst.txt>.

USPACOM

Hepatitis A and Blueberries - New Zealand

On 13 April, the *New Zealand Herald* reported the Ministry of Health had issued a health warning for all blueberries bought during 23 December - 31 January because 17 of 29 cases of hepatitis A since January were linked to blueberries. The Health Ministry reportedly has identified a person infected with hepatitis A, who worked at the Marshmeadow Gardens during part of the harvest period. The Ministry is working with the blueberry industry to provide more specifics on products that might be affected, how to identify them, and where they were sold. The report is at <http://www.nzherald.co.nz/storydisplay.cfm?thesection=news&thesubsection=&storyID=1392002>.

[HIV](#) - China

On 11 April, Reuters reported that China's National Centre [sic] for Disease Control estimated that 850,000 people might have contracted HIV by the end of 2001, an increase of more than 250,000 over last year's figure. This number is also higher than unofficially reported numbers in February (HIO Weekly Update, 6 February 2002). Exposure sources included needle sharing among intravenous drug users (68%), illegal blood transfusions (9.7%), and unsafe sex (7.2%). The number of cases of [AIDS](#) was put at 200,000, of which more than half had succumbed to the disease. The report is at http://www.wired.com/news/reuters/story?story_id=20020411RTSCIENCE-AIDS-CHINA-DC.

Ross River Virus Outbreak - Australia

On 10 April, the News.com.au reported that 37 cases - 25 during the past week - of Ross River fever had been reported in Tasmania. There were only 12 cases reported during 2001. The virus is transmitted by mosquito bites and causes a wide variety of symptoms, including headache, muscle pain, rashes, and fever, which usually last for one to two weeks but can last for months. The report is at http://www.news.com.au/common/story_page/0,4057,4108825%255E421,00.html.

Unexplained Deaths - India

On 12 April, ProMED posted a report by Xinhua News Agency, which reported that an unknown disease is believed responsible for killing about 200 goats and infecting eight people, two of whom have died in Gumbli located in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu. The disease was reported to resemble Summer Spring Encephalitis, which is endemic in Russia. The only clinical description of the disease provided was that it affected both the spinal cord and the brain causing paralysis. The report is at http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1001:182705::NO::F2400_P1001_BACK_PAGE,F2400_P1001_PUB_MAIL_ID:1011,17943.

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Dengue Fever - Brazil

On 12 April, ProMED reported a total of 129,000 cases of dengue fever with 50 deaths in Brazil. This is an increase of 24,531 cases and 10 deaths from the last [WHO](#) report of 19 March. The city of Rio de Janeiro has reported 31 deaths and 69,003 dengue cases, 463 of which were dengue hemorrhagic fever (DHF). This is an increase of 2 deaths, 19,854 cases and 28 DHF cases since the last WHO report of 19 March. The report is at http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1001:182705::NO::F2400_P1001_BACK_PAGE,F2400_P1001_PUB_MAIL_ID:1011,17946.

Malaria, Autochthonous - Brazil

On 15 April, ProMED reported an autochthonous (indigenous) case of malaria in a justice official from Cananeia, in the south coast of Sao Paulo. The patient had no recent travel to other regions. This is the first occurrence of malaria in Cananeia in the last ten years. Health officials in the region are on alert for other malaria cases. The report is at http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1001:182705::NO::F2400_P1001_BACK_PAGE,F2400_P1001_PUB_MAIL_ID:1011,17964.

Malaria - Peru

On 5 April, Childreach, the US member of the [NGO](#) PLAN International, reported that their field staff had reported a state of emergency for 16,000 affected people in the Piura program area due to heavy floods following 13 continuous hours of rain. According to the report PLAN Piura has made a commitment to attend to 50,000 cases of malaria in coordination with the Ministry of Health. No further information was given regarding the cases. The report is at <http://www.childreach.org/news/peruflood.html>.

Yellow Fever - Brazil, Exported

On 12 April, the WHO reported that a 47-year-old male from Texas died from yellow fever after returning from a fishing trip to Manaus, Brazil in early March. Onset of symptoms was 10 March, hospitalization was on 12 March, and death was on 16 March. The report is at <http://www.who.int/wer/pdf/2002/wer7715.pdf>.

Please contact the below-listed POC for suggested improvements and/or comments regarding this report. This report is also available on the USACHPPM website at <http://chppm-www.apgea.army.mil/Hiupdate/>.

POC: Barbara E. Davis, DVM, MPH/MCHB-CS-OHD/584-7663
<mailto:Barbara.Davis1@APG.amedd.army.mil>

ACRONYMNS

ACIP - Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices
AFPS – American Forces Press Service
AVIP - Anthrax Vaccine Immunization Program
BMJ - British Medical Journal
BSE – Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy
CDC – Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CDR – Communicable Disease Report (England)
Contamination Avoidance - provides automated capabilities to detect, locate, identify, quantify, sample, and plot the extent of all suspected threat agent hazards, and medical surveillance capabilities.
DARPA – Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, the central research/development organization for the DoD
DHHS – Department of Health and Human Services
DoD - Department of Defense
DOE – Department of Energy
DOS – Department of State
DOT – Department of Transportation
EISS – European Influenza Surveillance Scheme
EPA – Environmental Protection Agency
ESSENCE – Electronic Surveillance System for the Early Notification of Community-Based Epidemics
FDA – Food and Drug Administration
FEMA – Federal Emergency Management Agency
FMD – Foot and Mouth Disease
FSIS – Food Safety Inspection Service
GAO – US General Accounting Office
HIV/AIDS – Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
IAEA - International Atomic Energy Agency
IDP – Internally Displaced Persons
ICRC – International Committee of the Red Cross
IRCS – International Red Cross Society'
MOU - Memorandum of Understanding
NAS – National Academy of Sciences
NGO - Non-Governmental Organization
NIH – National Institutes of Health
NIOSH – National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health
NRC – Nuclear Regulatory Commission
OIE – World Organisation [sic] for Animal Health
OSHA - Occupational Safety and Health Administration
PAHO - Pan American Health Organization
PCR – Polymerase Chain Reaction
PPE - Personal Protective Equipment
Protection - includes all medical and non-medical means taken to protect the warfighter primarily from biological agent hazards and to a lesser degree, chemical agent hazards while maintaining normal operational mission tempo. The focus of protection is to prevent exposure or the effects of exposure, and include medical capabilities, such as vaccine, and non-medical capabilities such as mask for respiratory protection.
Restoration - capabilities that include medical and non-medical measures required to restore the joint force, units, facilities, and equipment to near-normal operating conditions after being challenged by a biological or chemical agent hazard. These measures include non-hazardous decontamination operations, effective supply and sustainment of all defense assets, and effective medical diagnostics and post-exposure countermeasures required to allow rapid determination of agent exposures and subsequent treatment.
TB – Tuberculosis
UK – United Kingdom – England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales
UN – United Nations
UNHCR – United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
USAID - United States Agency for International Development
USDA – United States Department of Agriculture
USPS - United States Postal Service
vCJD - variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease
VOA – Voice of America, an international multimedia broadcasting service funded by the US Government
WHO – World Health Organization
WMD - Weapons of Mass Destruction